

Number	Question	Category	Final WHS Approved Answer
1	Must each participating entity hold active DIBC consortium membership at the time of the Phase 1 Quad Chart submission, or may membership be finalized prior to Phase 2?	Eligibility	The lead performer only must be a DIBC Consortium Member prior to award.
2	For a teaming arrangement or joint venture between two consortium members, how should the Government prefer the relationship to be structured (e.g., prime/subcontractor vs. a JV entity), and which member should serve as the responsible/submitting party for purposes of SAM registration, CAGE code, and signing authority? Should a single consolidated Quad Chart be submitted on behalf of the team?	Eligibility	The government does not have a preference on teaming structure. It would be at the discretion of the proposers on which would be the primary. Each consortium member can provide submission(s) for individual project solutions, not for the same project solutions submitted by each.
3	Where a resource contribution is required, may the value of a contributed facility, existing equipment, or licensed intellectual property be applied toward the one-third threshold, and how should such contributions be valued and attributed across multiple participating members?	Eligibility	Cost share is required for traditional defense contractors that do not have significant participation from a nontraditional defense contractor or nonprofit research institution. Cost share proposed can be cash or in-kind and will be reviewed on a case by case basis during the proposal negotiation phase if selected for award.
4	Where background intellectual property is contributed by more than one participating member (e.g., distinct technology and manufacturing IP held by separate members), how does the Government prefer data-rights assertions and background-IP ownership to be presented across the team?	General Questions	Data rights should be declared for any <u>significant</u> participant included in the project solution. Review the RPP for Data Rights Assertions. Additional details can also be found in the DIBC Base Agreement.
5	How many awards does the Government anticipate making under AOI 1, and is there an anticipated funding ceiling per award or a total program budget?	Award	The number and dollar value of awards will be based on FY27 appropriations and Government need.
6	Does the magnitude of funding requested factor into the selection or evaluation of a submission?	Award	Please see section 5.0 of the RPP for the basis for proposed project solution evaluation.
7	What is the anticipated period of performance for the base and option periods?	Award	The period of performance should reflect the proposed project solution and the performers ability to successfully complete the project. Lengthy PoPs are unanticipated in prototype project solutions. The PoP should be based on deliverables and milestone of project solutions start to finish. 'Base and Options' are FAR affiliated and are not applicable to OTs. Although progressive or highly technical/complex project solutions can include project phases.
8	Is prior experience executing DPA Title III or comparable Government manufacturing awards viewed favorably in evaluation?	Award	No. Please see section 5.0 of the RPP for the basis for proposed project solution evaluation.
9	Section 7.0 references several financial instruments (e.g., direct equity, SAFE, convertible note, royalty/revenue share, offtake). Are these negotiated solely post-selection, or may a respondent propose a preferred structure within its Phase 2 submission?	Award	Submitters are welcome to include these in their submission. However, they are typically negotiated after a Phase 2 submission.
10	Does the Government anticipate a committed offtake or guaranteed-demand quantity to support the commercial viability and business-plan requirements?	Award	The DoW relies on a strong Industrial Base, of which commercial application and demand is critical to long term product viability.

11	Does the Government have a preference between a higher-energy design meeting minimum power requirements versus a higher-power design meeting minimum energy requirements?	Technology	The DoW has applications that require both high energy and high power. Proposals of both type will be received and the Gov does not have an identified preference.
12	The RPP requests that respondents describe the line's ability to cross-produce both 18650 and 21700 formats. Is a 21700-only solution acceptable, or is dual-format capability preferred or required?	Technology	A 21700 only solution is acceptable. However, a line that can cross between 18650 and 21700 would be more competitive.
13	Must the threshold technical specifications be demonstrated at the time of proposal, or is a credible plan to achieve them through the prototype effort acceptable?	Technology	Achieving the technical specifications through planned prototype is acceptable.
14	Are silicon-dominant / silicon-anode cell chemistries acceptable, provided the cells meet the UL 1642 and COTS-comparable safety requirements outlined in the RPP?	Technology	Yes, as long as the cells can meet technical specifications and safety considerations, other aspects of the cells construction are at the discretion of the submitter.
15	For the IRA domestic-content threshold on electrode active materials, must this be met at first production, or may it be phased in over the period of performance?	Technology	Domestic material may be phased in over time in accordance with relevant policy such as the NDAA Section 842.
16	For the 50% non-FEOC manufacturing-equipment threshold (by value), is the measurement applied cumulatively across the base and option periods, and does refurbished or previously used non-FEOC equipment count toward the threshold?	Technology	All equipment used to produce the product identified in the proposal may be considered for contribution to the value based metric and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis
17	Does the Government have preferred manufacturing locations, or does the state/region of production factor into evaluation?	General Questions	There are no preferred manufacturing locations.
18	Are multiple production sites within a single proposal acceptable (e.g., R&D in one location with cell and pack manufacturing in separate states)?	General Questions	Yes, multiple production locations are acceptable.
19	How will the Government balance technical performance versus commercial readiness during evaluation? Is there an informal preference for proposals demonstrating existing commercial traction, customer demand, or private investment in addition to strong technical merit?	Award	The DoW relies on a strong Industrial Base, of which commercial application and demand is critical to long term product viability. Demonstrating commercial application is important especially during phase 2 submissions.
20	Does the Government prefer proposals that expand an existing domestic manufacturing capability, or are greenfield manufacturing facilities viewed equally favorably?	General Questions	The government does not have a preference regarding expansion of existing facilities or newly constructed.
21	Will AOI 1 submissions be evaluated solely against the published threshold and objective requirements, or will proposals also be comparatively ranked against one another?	Award	Please see section 5.0 of the RPP for the basis for proposed project solution evaluation.
22	What factors, beyond the language in Section 9, will the Government consider when determining that a prototype project has been "successfully completed" and is eligible for a follow-on production award?	Eligibility	If selected for award, successful competition criteria will be incorporated into the Project Execution Plan (PEP) and.
23	Is there an anticipated timeline for Phase 2 invitations, award decisions, and project kickoff following Phase 1 submissions?	Award	The DPA program prefers to ask for full proposals once appropriated resources are approved by Congress. Continuing resolution bills may impact the timeline, but anticipated phase 2 invitations may occur in early GFY27.
24	Does the Government have a preference for proposals that integrate both cell development and downstream battery-pack manufacturing within a vertically integrated solution, or are cell-only manufacturing solutions considered equally responsive to AOI 1?	Technology	Both cell and pack centric proposals are acceptable.

25	The AOI objective is a cell line, but the Safety section invokes UL 2054 packs, MIL-STD-810 UAS battery testing, and pack thermal-runway prevention. Is prototype scope cell-level only or includes pack assembly and a UAS demonstration as deliverables?	Technology	Proposals for cells and packs are acceptable, with each alluding to safe performance at the cell or pack level. Demonstrations are a great way to highlight performance and safety.
26	For a joint venture, must the JV entity itself qualify as a nontraditional defense contractor, or does qualification flow from a constituent member and does a JV with at least one NDC or small-business member avoid the one-third resource contribution?	Award	Cost share is required for traditional defense contractors that do not have significant participation from a nontraditional defense contractor or nonprofit research institution. Cost share proposed can be cash or in-kind and will be reviewed on a case by case basis during the proposal negotiation phase if selected for award. Any further determinations on a case by case basis can be made if selected for from Phase II
27	Is the Quad Chart scored solely on relevance and merit/feasibility per §5.1, with the full spec table reserved for the Phase 2 PEP and in Phase 2, are individual threshold values hard pass/fail gates or evaluated holistically where cold-temperature and energy-density objectives trade off?	Award	Please see section 5.0 of the RPP for the basis for proposed project solution evaluation.
28	What is the Government's baseline expectation for technical-data rights on proprietary cell chemistry, and will asserting limited/restricted rights on core IP weigh adversely under §5.2(4)?	General Questions	Data rights may be negotiated on a case-by-case basis. Please reference the DIBC Base Agreement for further details regarding proprietary information and data rights.
29	For AOI 1, must the submitting or lead Consortium Member own or directly operate the proposed 18650/21700 lithium-ion cell manufacturing line, or may a qualified lead integrator submit with a committed domestic cell-manufacturing partner that owns or operates the production capability?	Technology	The government does not have a preference on teaming structure. It would be at the discretion of the proposers on which would be the primary.
30	For AOI 2, must the submitting or lead Consortium Member own or directly operate the U.S.-based Silver-Zinc battery production facility, or may a qualified modernization/integration lead submit with a committed domestic facility owner/operator?	Technology	Partnering and teaming allowed. A qualified integrator may submit with a partner who owns the manufacturing line.
31	At Phase I quad-chart submission, must all critical manufacturing, facility, equipment, and supply-chain partners be formally committed, or may offerors identify certain critical partners as planned, in negotiation, or to be finalized before Phase II?	Submissions	Any Prime or Sub having significant contribution to the project solution should be included.
32	For prototype OT eligibility under this RPP, would a proposal led by a small business and/or nontraditional defense contractor satisfy the participation requirement without a one-third resource contribution, or is resource sharing expected for all proposed project solutions regardless of business status?	Submissions	10 U.S.C. § 4022(d), states that OTs meet at least one of the following conditions: 1. As defined in 10 U.S.C. § 3014, there is at least one nontraditional defense contractor (NDC) or nonprofit research institution (NRI) participating to a significant extent in the prototype project. 2. All significant participants in the transaction other than the Federal Government are small businesses (including small businesses participating in a program described under section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. § 638)) or NDCs.

33	What minimum data-rights and supply-chain visibility posture is required for a proposal to remain eligible, particularly where the team asserts restrictions over proprietary manufacturing process data, supplier data, digital-thread artifacts, automation models, quality analytics, or manufacturing know-how?	General Questions	Please see section 2.1 in the RPP Anticipated Data Rights: Data rights will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis. The Government seeks at minimum Limited Rights for technical data and Restricted Rights for software to protect commercial IP while ensuring the DoW's ability to maintain supply chain visibility. Please reference the DIBC Base Agreement for further details regarding proprietary information and data rights.
34	For both AOIs, would the Government view a formal Manufacturing Readiness Assessment, Manufacturing Maturation Plan, digital-thread architecture, process-control plan, supplier-quality plan, and workforce-training plan as strengthening the proposal's feasibility, transition-readiness, and domestic industrial-base impact?	Submissions	Please see Section 5.0 of the RPP for the basis for proposed project solution evaluation.
35	For both AOIs, should offerors include capital funding support concepts in Phase I, such as DPA Title III purchase commitments, offtake agreements, loans, loan guarantees, equity-linked instruments, revenue-share structures, or other non-procurement financial tools—or should those mechanisms be reserved for Phase II proposal development or post-selection negotiation?	Submissions	Submitters are welcome to include these in their submission. However, they are typically negotiated after a Phase 2 submission.
36	Under the Safety & Certification Requirements section on p5 of the RPP, one bullet point states: "MIL-STD-810 environmental testing for UAS batteries." MIL-STD-810H has test Method 520.5 COMBINED ENVIRONMENTS, intended for testing airborne electronic materiel under combinations of temperature, altitude, humidity, input electrical power, and vibration. For the proposed project work, since there are no specific tests (such as those found in the UL 1642 and UL 2054 standards) stated in MIL-STD-810H, is the Government looking for testing and results from one or more applicant-proposed UAS flight simulations that look at the combined named environment effects encountered in such missions?	Technology	The Government is looking for batteries that can survive a broad range of environmental conditions listed in MIL-STD-810. The standard is cited to guide applicants in generating test parameters for their products' intended/ expected environments and missions, and it is up to the applicant how they demonstrate their product's ability to meet those parameters/specifications.
37	Can an applicant receive funding under this RPP for equipment or project costs that are also being supported by another Federal agency award? For example, if one Federal agency is paying for a percentage of equipment under a grant, may DOW fund a percentage of that same equipment under this RPP, provided the costs are properly allocated and not reimbursed twice? Please clarify whether any statutory requirements, administrative rules, cost-sharing limitations, or duplication-of-benefits restrictions would allow or prohibit this type of funding structure.	General Questions	While sharing a physical asset is permissible, the work scope and deliverables of the two projects must remain distinct to avoid a duplication of programmatic benefits. The cost must be clearly allocable and impact specific to this project solution. (2 CFR 200 SubPart E) This would be negotiated on a case by case basis after Phase II.